

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: 11th November, 2022**

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 697.979 ha of forest land for Pottangi Bauxite Mining Lease in village Pottangi of Koraput Forest Division under Pottangi Tehsil of Koraput District, Odisha by M/s NALCO Ltd.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0056-2022-11955/FE&CC dated 08.07.2022 and no. 20420/9F (MG) – 337/2021 dated 06.10.2022 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

The proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in the meeting held on 17.10.2022 and the minutes of the meeting may be accessed at: [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The FAC observed that a kuccha road passing through the lease area is said to have been constructed during 1972 to 1978. The FAC opined that during the period of more than 44 years, the kuccha road should have been covered with vegetation and/or merged with the surroundings; therefore, all facts pertaining to the said road needs to be examined in depth and a report thereon should be submitted by the State Government to the Committee for further consideration.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit a report, as above, to the Ministry, enabling further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-  
**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**Copy to:**

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file